Bilateral Talks on Indo-Nepal Treaties

1962. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the bilateral talks held so far for having new Treaties on Trade and Transit and Friendship between India and Nepal; and

(b) What decision and action government have taken in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) After the lapse of the Indo-Nepal Treaties of Trade and of Transit on March 23, 1989, Government have sought with His Majesty's Government of Nepal negotiations for a single unified Treaty of Trade and Transit. The Government of Nepal, however, are seeking two separate Treaties for Trade and for Transit. Consultations on this and other matters are continuing through diplomatic channels. Government feel that both the countries could, with profit, go into the working of the 1950 Treaty with a view to ensuring its proper implementation in letter and in spirit. Government are ready and willing for talks with Nepal on this subject as well as to discuss the entire gamut of Indo-Neapl bilateral relations.

Supreme Court stay regarding teaching of Sanskrit in schools affiliated to Central Boardof Secondary Education

1963. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court has recently stayed the clubbing of Sanskrit with Hindi while implementing three language formula in the Schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Supreme Court of India has passed an interim order on 17-3-89 restraining the Central Board of Secondary Education from implementing its order No. Acad/88/ED(Hum.)/CM dated the 16th September, 1988 in so for as it affects the existing position of Sanskrit.

Interim arrangements for trade between India and Nepal

1964. SHRIMATI SUHDA VIJAY JOSHI:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleaed to state:

(a) whether any interim steps have been taken by Government to enter into a new agreement with Nepal so that the movement of commodities for trade between the two countries would not remain standstill; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the new agreement entered into or other interim arrangements made for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Consequent to the lapsing of Treaties of Trade and Transit simultaneously on March 23, 1989, Government have invited His Majesty's Government of Nepal for negotiations on a single unified treaty. Pending negotiations, and with a view to ensuring smooth movement of goods between India and Nepal, Government have kept open two transit points on Indo-Nepal border for bilateral and third country trade. In addition, two transit points exclusively for Nepal's trade with Bangladesh and Bhutan have been allowed to continue as heretofore.

Child marriages

1965. SHRI P. N. SUKUL:

SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards reports which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 13th March, 1989 captioned 'Child marriage still rampant';

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to curb this social evil, particularly, in the context of Government's policy of curbing population growth in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Child Marriage Restraint Act prescribes 18 as the age of marriage for Girls and 21 for boys. The National Perspective Plan for Women 1988-2000 AD emphasises the need to implement the present law effectively. It also suggests creating a social consciousness for delaying marriage at least upto the minimum age mentioned in the above Act. The NPP also recommends that it is necessary to provide alternative options to early marriage and that this can be done by a mix of education and employment opportunities and enforcement of the law.

The Department funds programmes/media campaigns to fight this social evil through the Social Welfare Board and voluntary organisations.

Allocation for implementation of new Education Policy

1966. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of the national income was being spent annually when the new Education Policy was formulated and by what percentage the allocation was raised for the implementation of the programme under the new Education Policy;

(b) what is the allocation, if any, made for the policy in 1988-89 and the names of the State Government which have failed to raise the resources to meet their part of the commitment; and

(c) in what manner Government think that target of universal elementary education by 1995 is likely to be achieved with the present rate of progress and inadequate funds?